

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained in traffic on Tuesday, January 29 while returning to the Capitol from my congressional district. This forced me to miss the vote on House Resolution 335, a resolution commending Catholic schools. Had I been present, I certainly would have voted for the bill.

As a graduate of Catholic elementary school and one well acquainted with the many first-rate Catholic educational institutions in my congressional district, I would have been delighted to vote for a resolution that "congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents and teachers across the nation for their ongoing contributions to education." I regret that I missed this opportunity to celebrate the merits of a Catholic education.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMMEDIATE HELPING HAND DRUG ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2002

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I believe most of us agree that the modernization of the Medicare program must include prescription drug coverage for seniors. Senior citizens are right to be concerned about having to pay for prescription drugs out of their own pockets and they are right to wonder when lawmakers will take action.

Congress seems poised to take action. But what if? What if Congress doesn't pass a Medicare reform bill that includes a drug benefit? What if partisan politics cause inaction? Then what?

I believe the solution lies in my legislation, the "Immediate Helping Hand Prescription Drug Assistance Act of 2002," which closely mirrors the plan President Bush put forth in early 2001. My bill will provide \$48 billion over seven years to states to help seniors afford prescription drug coverage. This national program is similar to the state of Connecticut's "ConnPACE" program and other state-funded prescription subsidy plans that help seniors purchase medication at a low cost.

Under my legislation, states would receive block grants to provide a drug benefit for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, either through the creation of new state drug assistance programs or through the expansion of existing programs. With this targeted approach, states would be able to provide much-needed dollars to drug programs, allowing more of our nation's seniors to afford prescription drugs.

While I would prefer adding a prescription drug benefit to a modernized Medicare sys-

tem, election-year politics may make this task virtually impossible. We cannot wait any longer—we must act now to provide seniors with a "helping hand" toward providing real prescription drug coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this bill with three of my colleagues—Mrs. HART, and Messrs. KOLBE and MANZULLO. I urge others who truly care about providing prescription drug coverage to our low-income seniors to cosponsor my Immediate Helping Hand legislation.

ESTABLISHING FIXED INTEREST RATES FOR STUDENT AND PARENT BORROWERS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1762. This bill helps expand opportunities for higher education by establishing fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers.

Our country is the land of opportunity, where one can go from rags to riches. A few land unique and rare opportunities for successful ventures that reap them financial security. The majority of the population, however, rely on a college, or more advanced, education.

The future of our Nation lies in educating the next generation of young people. But the cost of an education these days is phenomenal—tens of thousands of dollars per year for tuition alone. Add in the cost of books, room and board, and maybe a movie now and again. And for those who continue on to law or medical school, a significant amount of expenses is added on.

Most students get through college by working and taking out loans. Education loans are good investment in our economy and in our citizens. College graduates earn an average of 80 percent more than individuals with only a high school diploma. Over a lifetime, the earnings difference individuals with high school and college degrees can be more than \$1 million.

Education loans give everyone and anyone the opportunity to a college education because they are guaranteed. This legislation is crucial to ensure that education loans are accessible to help future generations realize the American Dream.

IN HONOR OF DAVID P. LEMAGNE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero. On the tragic day of Sep-

tember 11, 2001, David P. Lemagne of New Jersey, working along side the Port Authority Police of New York and New Jersey, sacrificed his own life for the lives and well being of others. Today, I would like us to join together in a moment of silence to recognize the life of a truly outstanding man.

Since childhood, David Lemagne has helped those in need. In 1985, he worked as an Explorer in Post 525 with the Union City Volunteer Ambulance Corp. This was just the beginning of a career dedicated to assisting others. In 1990, he received his EMT Certification from the Bergen County EMS Training Academy and started working with the Union City Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Upon completion of high school, he was hired as an EMT with the Jersey City Medical Center, and worked as an EMT for the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey through 1993.

David studied hard and worked his way through the ranks, earning him respect, seniority, and greater responsibilities, including: a position as a Paramedic with the Jersey City Medical Center; as Ride Master of UMDNJ EMS Bike Team in 1995, where he served through 1999; as Tour Chief of the New Jersey Medical Center in charge of Emergency Services; and as a Team Paramedic of the NJSEA Meadowlands Arena. David saved countless lives throughout his selfless service to the community.

David Lemagne graduated from Hudson Catholic High School in 1992; received an Associates Degree in Paramedicine from UMDNJ in 1994; and began studying Sports Medicine at Kean University.

David is survived by his parents, Ruth Myriam and Prudencio, his sister, Magaly, his brother-in-law, Salvatore Alfano, and his grandmother Lupe, and grandfather Guillermo.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating the life of David P. Lemagne, forever a hero in the eyes of all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CLAIRE SALVIANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a woman I am proud to represent in Congress and even more honored to call my friend, Ms. Claire Salviano. Claire was recognized on Thursday, January 31, 2002 for her 25 years of dedicated service at the Department of Transportation for the Paterson Board of Education.

It is only fitting that she be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for she has a long history of caring, leadership, and commitment to the children of her hometown.

Claire Salviano was born in Paterson, New Jersey to Herbert and Clara Huntington. After

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